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'RUTH'S PRISONER'

Not at All Humorous to Miss Cynthla.

Nodding pleasantly to Miss Cynthis and waving their hands to their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Foster drove out of the yard. They were going to Rochester, where Mr. Foster expected to buy some fine cattle and Mrs. Foster had some shopping to do. When their business was finished they expected to spend the night with their married daughter and return home the next day.

"Well," remarked Miss Cynthia, as the buggy disappeared around a bend in the road, "they have quite a treat before them, no mistake. They don't get off very often, now, do they?" Ruth Foster shook her head.

"Mother will think it the greates! kind of a trent to have one whole evening with Margaret; they haven't had an evening together for nearly

"That's so," agreed Miss Cynthia, "and now I'm glad I didn't mention about that burglar before they went. for your Ma would have been sure to worry some. You see, there's been a burglar over to Laconia, and he broke a bank over there somewheres. and the officers are after him. I heard down to the postoffice that he was a-headed this way. They've got a paper posted up there, that says he is a tallish young man with a smooth face and mejum complexion and blue eyes." Ruth Foster laughed mer-

"Let him come, Miss Cynthia, I do not believe he will bother you or

"The first of my boarders is coming tonight, a little early for summer boarders, but it is that Mr. Stanton I told you about, from New York, you know, so I'm all right. But you poor child, you will be all alone, now that John's away and your Pa and Ma are off to Rochester. You had better come up and stay with me tonight." But Ruth was not disturbed in the least, and refusing Miss Cynthia's kindly offer she went about her work singing to herself. When it was time she did the evening chores and closed the house, then she sat on the doorstep for nearly an hour enjoying the sweet spring twilight and listening to the singing of the frogs in the willow brook.

On reaching bome Miss Cynthia took a final peep into the room prepared for the expected guest, and

"The train gets in at about ten minutes to seven, and Jason Hodges will have him up here in about three flips of a fly's wing, and if he should take it into his head to walk thing that can be seen. 'twouldn't make him but a few mincarrying a heavy traveling has came vis'hle, all right." up the walk she hurried to the door and held out her hand,

"Howdy-do, Mr. Stanton," she the world didn't you get Jason on the street. Hodges to drive you up? I told him to be on the lookout for you on the out, "his more nerve than anyone train tonight, when I got your letter; | Lever met!" but come right In, your supper and room are both ready."

After sitting on the doorstep for a the house, intending to return in a minute or two. When she did she was horrified to find a young man standing on the step-"a tallish young man of mejum complexion"she could see that, even in the twilight. When he saw her he took off his hat and asked if Mr. Foster was at home. Ruth told him her father was not at home, and then as soon as she said so she was sorry.

"Can I come in and rest?" he asked, when he found that she did not ask him in. Ruth hesitated. "Come in," she said at last; she felt that it would never do to let this rob-

ber see that she was afraid of him. After she had lighted a lamp he asked if he might trouble her for something to eat. He had had no supper. There had been no restaurant at the station or village, and he was rather hungry. Ruth sat the table and then, as the kettle was singing merrily, she handed him a plate and asked bim to fill it with gressman's wife?" doughnuts from a crock which she while she made the tea. He went far as to call socially on the wives of nity? into the pantry and was filling the some of her husband's constituents."

plate with the beautifully browned | loughnuts when Ruth slammed the door and locked and bolted it.

"Now, Mr. Burglar," she cried, Comedy of Errors That Proved "if you really are hungry you can eat those doughnuts, but you shall not get out until papa or John comes

> She went into the sitting room and tried to read. For a long time she heard the man pounding on the door and calling to her, but finally all was still. She knew the man could not get out, because of the heavy bars on the pantry window. The night dragged slowly, and eventually she slept, to be awakened in the morning by John, the hired man, rapping at the door and calling to her. As she let him in, she told him of her ad-

> "He is in there now, John; get some rope and we will tie him and you can take him to jail." John did as he was bid and then unfastened the door.

> "Good gracious," he cried, "it's Mr. Morton; he was down here from college with your brother Bob, last summer, while you were away, Ruth. and your father told me he expected im again next-week."

"Yes, it was my intention to comnext week, but I have to go wes with a mining expedition next week and therefore wrote Mr. Foster that would be down last night, but my etter must have miscarried, for I see that Miss Foster does not know me and has heard nothing of my intended visit. She would not listen to me after she locked me in. Before that I supposed she knew who was." Poor Ruth was so mortified t was a long time before Robert Morton ceased to call himself Ruth's prisoner."

Miss Cynthia's night was advenurous, also. When she went to call ner "boarder" the next morning she found an empty room, an empty sideboard in the dining room, and an empty purse in her work basket. As she stood in the doorway, a horrified expression on her face, Jason Hodges brought her a telegram from the real Mr. Stanton, saving that he could not come quite as early as he expected, but that he would come the next

"It wouldn't a happened if that paper in front of the postoffice hadn't a lied," she declared; "it said 'a tallish young man of mejum complexion,' and I calk'late no man can grow a great black board like that in two days, so now."

CLEARING HIMSELF.

The Judge Sambo, you are then, when she had finished the last charged with being a vagrant; that s, with having no visible means of support.

> Sambo-No vis'ble means of suppolit, yo, homali? What yo' mean by visible means of suppoht?

The Judge-Visible means some

Sambo-Dat so? Why, Lawdy, utes later," mused the good lady as judge! Yo' jest send for mah wife, nal. she hustled about, and when, a few an' make her leave do washin' and minutes after seven, a tired-looking come bysh. Vis'ble? Huh! She young man with a dark beard, and weighs 300 pounds. I guess she's

CAUSE FOR ANGER.

Mr. Wilkins was near the explodsaid, "you are welcome, but why in ing point when his neighbor met him carber, inside out!-London Sketch.

"That man Tompkins," he burst

"Why?" asked his neighbor curi-

"He came over to my house last long time listening to the wood notes evening and borrowed my gun to kill and the frogs, Ruth Foster went into a dog that kept him awake nights." "Well, what of that?"

"Why," shouted Mr. Wilkins, "it was my dog he killed!"-Ladies' Home Journal.

HOW HE ESCAPED.

"Do you believe in love at first "Yep, I fell in love once at first

"But you are not married?" "Nope, I have the gift of second

OBVIOUS THOUGHT.

Lord Notasent (moodily)-I dreamed last night, James, that I had plenty of money!

The Valet (eagerly) -An' 'oo was the 'appy H'american girl, me lud?

HELPING HUSBAND.

"Is she the right sort to be a con-

"Is she? Why, she's more demopointed out to him, in the pantry, cratic than he is. She even goes so

MAN HAS ABNORMAL MEMORY

Illiterate English Laborer Whose Feats Have Recently Been Causing Much Astonishment.

George Harbottle, a laborer at a Northumberland quarry, possesses a remory which retains an indelible apression of every word which he ears or reads, says the Northwestern lazette. After once hearing read, or cading himself, half a dozen book ages of any kind of matter, he can epeat them without omitting a sin-

One one occasion a man who knew farbottle bought a pamphlet of ngs from a street singer, and gered him that he could not, with-20 minutes, learn and correctly peat all the songs. Harbottle reented every song without a mistake 17 minutes. The names of all the censed houses in Glasgow were read ut to him three times and he repeat-I them correctly in the reverse orer in which they were read out. we men read two different pararaphs from two newspapers simulneously and Hurbottle repeated ee paragraph correctly and made nly two mistakes in the other-a emarkable feat. His foreman one av showed him a book containing he record of his seven workmates for ight months. It was at the dinner our and the men were all sitting in group. In ten minutes, from memcy. Harbottle told each man what e had done and the wages he had arned during each week of the previous eight months.

Being an illiterate man, he can do nothing with figures, but otherwise his abnormal power seems to triumph over the most severe tests to which it can be put.

BAD ONE



Doyle Do yez get th' flavor of thot cigar, Boyle?

Boyle-Sure, I could smell th' weed wid me eyes shut,

HARSH JUDGMENT.

"In eastern countries men buy their wives."

T've seen some in this country that looked as if they were acquired at a remnant sale."-Courier Jour-

A TURN OF PHRASE,

Cigar Smoker (facetiously)still studying the sea, professor? on must know it upside down by

The Professor (feelingly)—Say,

NOT SO FAR WRONG.

"This booby has been telling me about an aviary meeting he attended intely,"

"Well, it was a meeting of birdmen, wasn't it?"

NO CASH NEEDED.

"You can have that property for a

"You don't mean that literally." "Yes, I do. I'll take your notes."

POOR KIND OF SPORT.

"Rogers is a bit of a sportsman,

"If going off on wild goose chases makes a fellow one, he is,"

SWEET.

Mollie-How many lumps of ugar shall I put in your coffee? Chollie-Oh, have your own sweet way, as usual, dear.

WHY SHE ENJOYS GOLF.

"Do you enjoy golf?" "Very much. It keeps my husband out of my way most of the

PAW KNOWS EVERYTHING.

Willie-Paw, what is war indem-

Paw-Alimony, my son.